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## Sleeping for a living



**Photo shows Ms. Zhuang sleeping on the bed as she shows a part of her job as a Hotel Test Sleeper at a boutique hotel in central Beijing. Zhuang was selected as one of three final winners out of 7,800 candidates and started working for Qunar as a Professional Hotel Test Sleeper in March 2010. At present, she has slept at more than 200 hotels. Her reviews help travelers make smart hotel picks and bring them a more pleasant experience on the road.**

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## National Day celebration events began with solemn reverence and joyful celebration



**Prime Minister Mike Eman addresses the gathering**



**Victor Samuel sings Aruba**

stands before an eternal flame the statue of Cornelius Albert (Shon) Eman, father of Aruba's Prime Minister Mike Eman, and the man who began the movement for Aruban independence from the other islands of the Netherlands Antilles.

Placing memorial wreaths before the monument were the Prime Minister and Nicole Hovertsz, Secretary to the Cabinet of Ministers, on behalf of the Government of Aruba. They were followed by Parliamentarians Rene Herde and Desiree Croes, on behalf of the AVP political party, founded by Shon Eman. Charlotte Wolff-Croes and Rina Gonzalez represented the 18th of March Monument Foundation and Rebecca Eman and David Eman placed a wreath on behalf of their family.

*Continued on page 8*

The multi-faceted personality of the Aruban people was truly revealed on Saturday evening, March 17, with the events bringing to a close of full year of observing the silver anniversary of Status Aparte, Aruban autonomy within the Dutch Kingdom, and 35 years of the two great symbols of their patriotism and national identity, the National Anthem and flag.

The solemn part began just shortly after 5:00 at the March 18th Memorial on L.G. Smith Boulevard, attended by island and visiting dignitaries. Here



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## A warm welcome to Neville Every, ATA's new Area Director for North America



Neville Every with Minister Oduber



With ATA CEO Ronella Tjin Asjoe Croes and Jossy Lacle

Aruba's tourism and travel executives and hotel managers joined Minister of Tourism, Transport & Labor, Otmar Oduber, and Aruba Tourism Authority CEO Ronella Tjin Asjoe-Croes in welcoming to

the fold ATA's new Area Director for North America, Neville Every, during a congenial event at Mirpas café in Oranjestad on Friday evening, March 16.

*Continued on page 4*



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## ELMAR N.V. refinances debt facility at lower interest rate



ORANJESTAD -- The Board of Utilities Aruba N.V. together with the Board of ELMAR N.V., last week, signed for a new 3-year loan with NIBanc for the sum of 30 million US Dollars. This new loan is at an attractive reduced interest rate of 5.75% instead of the 7% interest rate of the past loan facility.

This reduced interest rate gives ELMAR more financial breathing space on her existing debts and makes way for more funds for the company to continue to invest.

With this loan ELMAR will refinance her existing debts and will have a larger surplus to do other investments. One of the projects they will undertake is the "Prepaid meters"

project. This project will enable clients to have better control over their daily electricity use.

Soon ELMAR will begin with a "test fase" for the introduction of the "prepaid meters." This system will remain optional to clients to choose.

Clients will eventually have the option for prepaid or post-paid electrical meters.

While NIBanc is the primary financier for this giant loan, a list of other banks also contributed to the loan facility, namely, CMB, Aruba Bank, Banco di Caribe, Ennia, RBC Bank, APFA, Meta Fund, Van Lanschot, and FCIB.

The formal signing ceremony of this million dollar loan took place in the presence of Minister Mike de Meza, in charge of the management of energy and utilities for the government; Drs. Frank Hoeverst, Director of Utilities Aruba N.V.; Ing Robert Henriquez, Director of ELMAR N.V.; and representatives of NIBanc.







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## Counterfeit money and credit card fraud brought under the loop in upcoming June Conference here

ORANJESTAD -- In the month of June an International conference on Money and credit card fraud will be held here on Aruba. The venue for this informative conference will be the Grand Ballroom of the Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino on June 23rd. Keynote speaker for this conference will be the American expert, Jose Camacho.

For 25 years Camacho was a member of the American Express investigative team, and is an instructor of money and credit card fraud for, among others, the FBI National Academy and the US Secret Service. Today Camacho heads up his own fi-

nancial investigation company. He handles large fraud cases for insurance companies, credit card companies, banks and the American Federal Court.

According to Jose Camacho "...as technology advances, new strategies of financial crimes are surfacing, and our knowledge for combating fraudulent activities is also growing. Our professionals are forced to change our procedures to combat and prevent the loss of profit due to fraud."

Rudolf de Kort, coordinator of the upcoming conference, indicated that "...there is more than the loss of money because of fraud; we

are also in the geographic region where a lot of fraud takes place, which makes it necessary for us to be knowledgeable about this matter."

The theme of the conference will be "Mind Your Eye: Currency Counterfeit and Credit Card Fraud."

In 2000 there was a similar conference held here on Aruba, and actually as a result of the success of that conference came the request to do another conference as an update so that we can be brought up to date on all the new developments. This conference will also feature information and local experiences from, among others, the Central Bank of

Aruba.

Participants are expected from banks, financial entities, Hotels, Casinos and different types of businesses that deal daily with large sums of money and payments via credit cards and bank cards.

Undoubtedly, there will be a major interest from the region for this conference again this year.

Interested parties should visit [www.mindyoureye-aruba.com](http://www.mindyoureye-aruba.com) for more information on the conference.



Rudolf de Kort

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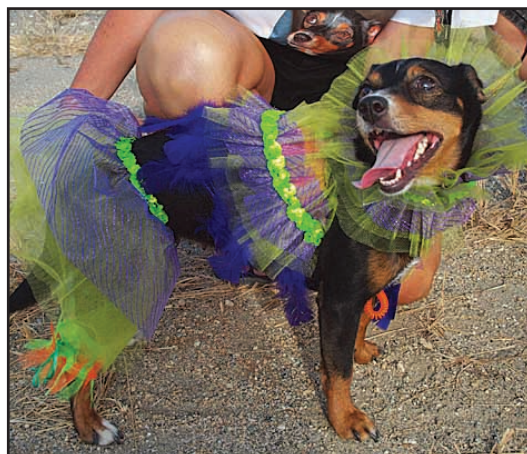
### Thanks to all for their support during the fundraising Doggy Pawrade 2012



Great fun was had by the few who showed up with canines in costume for the 2nd Annual Cas Animal Carnival Doggy Pawrade on March 4. The be-

working hard to build a proper no-kill shelter, to which the fundraiser was dedicated. She wishes to thank all the kind individuals who dedicated their time, along with the generosity of various local concerns in their support of the event.

Heartfelt gratitude goes out to Richard Roy and Westin Aruba Resort, Bradley and Balashi Brewery, Pachanga Dance Studio, Elite Lighting and Sound, Ewald Biemans and Deborah Dintleman and Bucuti Beach Resort & Tara Suites, Rusty and Buster's Garage, General Store, Banco di Caribe, Casa Haime, Fantastic Gardens, Kooyman, Red Cross, Manchebo Best Western Beach Resort, Emco, Compra NV. The Morning News and friends and volunteers Lori,



jeweled and sequined candidates couldn't have been cuter, even if they were nearly the size of a horse like Lady, the Neapolitan Mastiff crowned the Large Dog Carnival Queen, fetching in her gossamer green fairy wings.

Kirten Arndt is founder of Cas Animal Foundation, which rescues stray and abandoned dogs off the streets, and is

Rosalie, Ramiro, June, Oslin, and Judges Nydia Dik, Eva Wever and Michael Douglas.

Kiki still has a hefty supply of Cas Animal Doggy Pawrade tee shirts for sale for \$10 each; the proceeds will take her closer to her goal of moving the more than 100 dogs and puppies she shelters in her home into a proper facility with its own clinic. Call her at 742-



**Cas Animal Doggy Pawrade tee shirts**

8732 and she will bring the shirt to you at your resort or home. You can also report an animal in need of assistance, as she maintains an Animal Ambulance to rescue them.

Her expenses for feeding all the animals she has taken in are astronomical, as well as her veterinary bills. You can also help by paying on her account at the Contreras Clinics in Shaba or Savaneta, or to Animal Care Clinic, phone number 582-8382, as well as directly to the bank account of Cas Animal Foundation, CMB Bank account # 25762110. If you are not an island resident and wish to adopt a dog, Kiki will assist you in the process, as it is much easier to return to the U.S. with an Aruban dog than you might think, and any would be examined and certified by a qualified vet to pass quarantine standards.

by Rosalie Klein

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## A warm welcome to Neville

Continued from page 2



**With Myrna Jansen and Alex Nieuwe Meyer**

Every, born on Aruba and educated in Rotterdam, has spent quite some years traveling around Europe, the U.S. and Central America as a marketing representative for Phillips Medical Division. "Tourism is a different kind of product, but we are marketing a product here, so I believe my experience well qualifies me for the job, he commented.

ATA officials and Minister Oduber expressed how pleased they are to have him on board. Every will take over the office located in Secaucus, New Jersey, and he is spending his time on island re-acquainting himself with Aruba's current

tourism product.

This is keeping him quite busy, as the island has grown extensively since he left for his schooling 11 years ago, but he expressed he is enjoying it immensely. "One thing about traveling around the region," Every observed, "is that it has given me the opportunity to really learn



**Jim Hepple of AHATA, Peter Steinmentz of AAA and Melanie Kelly of ATA**

about alternate destinations and compare, so I truly appreciate Aruba's motto, "A wonderful place to live is a wonderful place to visit." I will have no problem enthusiastically and sincerely promoting Aruba as a perfect vacation destination."

by Rosalie Klein



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## Miss Paxton Widing honored at the Hyatt Regency Aruba Beach Resort



Recently, the Aruba Tourism Authority (ATA) had the great pleasure of honoring a very nice young girl who is a loyal and friendly visitors of Aruba. Miss Payton Widing from Michigan USA. was honored as Distinguished Visitor of Aruba. The symbolic honorary title was presented to her in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation for her more than 10 consecutive visit to Aruba.

Miss Widing has been coming to Aruba with her parents since she was a baby and grew up loving the island very much. She says she loves staying at the Hyatt and meet all the nice people who work there and enjoy the beautiful weather, the food and to do a lot of fun things.

The certificate was presented by ATA representative Ernest Giel, together with Mrs. Coral Berkel representing the Hyatt Regency Aruba Beach Resort.

## *The Jacksons and Parks prove you need not be Aruban born to love its National Day*

Among the many native islanders lining the L.G. Smith Boulevard in Oranjestad yesterday morning to celebrate Aruban autonomy and national symbols, the anthem and flag, was a quartet of visitors who proudly displayed their love for the island where they winter every year.

David and Barbara Jackson of Toronto, Canada, who have been coming to Aruba every winter for the past five years, became fast friends with 11-year veteran visitors Donna and Moose Park of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania went they met at the Quality Apartments in Oranjestad, their chosen domicile for their extended vacations.

"We love Carnival, too," expressed the Parks, "and we are so sad that we just missed it this year, when we arrived in mid-February, but we know we can always count on March 18th for a wonderful, moving display of national pride."

"Our leaders could definitely learn something from



Aruba," observed David Jackson, who finds the pomp and grandeur of the annual event thrilling. "We may have our Independence Day celebrations in our individual towns, but still, they never quite match the sincere fervor we see here. There is just something in the air that

touches the heart." Aruba's national day has particular in his case, as David was born on March 18th. "So tell me, how can we not love coming to a place where the entire population celebrates my birthday so beautifully? What could be better?"

*by Rosalie Klein*



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## International News

### Two British journalists held in Libya freed: ministry

TRIPOLI (AFP) - Two British journalists working for an Iranian broadcaster who were detained by a Libyan militia last month have been freed, the interior ministry said on Sunday. The two journalists, Nicholas Davies and Gareth Montgomery-Johnson, were seated beside the official during the press conference, looking tired but healthy.

Afterwards, they left the ministry building in a British embassy car.

Khadrawi said two Libyans had been arrested along with the Britons, but made no comment on what had become of them.

The Swehli militia from the

western city of Misrata, which also operates in Tripoli, seized the pair last month while they were reportedly filming in a sensitive area of Tripoli late at night.

The commander of the militia, Faraj Swehli, charged last month that the two Britons, who were working for Iran's English-Language Press TV, were being held for illegal entry and possible espionage.

Swehli said suspicious conduct by the journalists led his men to track them as they moved around Tripoli and conducted interviews at various ministries of the interim government.

As evidence, he laid in front of journalists included a "Made in Israel" army field dressing and photographs of men -- who Swehli identified as the journalists in question -- carrying weapons.

On Wednesday, after extensive negotiations with interim authorities which had declared the detention illegal and after pressure from rights groups, the militia handed the journalists over to the interior ministry.

Government spokesman Mohammed al-Harizi had told AFP on Saturday that the two were still under investigation because there was "too much information (suggesting) they were in Libya for purposes other than journalism."

### Interpol issues warrant for Kadhafi spy chief



**Abdullah al-Senussi, former head of Libyan intelligence under the regime of late leader Moamer Kadhafi**

LYON (AFP) - Interpol said Sunday it had issued an international "red notice" warrant for Libya's ex-spy chief Abdullah Senussi at Tripoli's request following his arrest in Mauritania.

"At Libya's request, Interpol has issued a Red Notice for Colonel (Moamer) Kadhafi's former director of military intelligence, Abdullah al-Senussi, for fraud offenses including embezzling public funds and misuse of power for personal benefit," the organization based in Lyon, France, said in a statement.

It said the request for the 62-year-old was in addition to another Red Notice issued by Interpol at the demand of the International Criminal Court for Senussi in September for crimes against humanity.

Senussi was arrested late Friday at Nouakchott airport as he arrived on a regular flight from Casablanca in Morocco carrying a fake Malian passport.

Both France and the ICC had filed formal requests to extradite him, a security source in Nouakchott said, but Tripoli has insisted that it should put him on trial.

Libya is determined to try the feared former right-hand man of fallen leader Kadhafi and a delegation from the ruling National Transitional Council was expected to visit Mauritania soon to discuss Senussi's handover.

"Interpol has committed itself to supporting Libya's efforts to achieve its goal of rebuilding their country and... their request for an Interpol Red Notice for al-Senussi is a clear demonstration of their commitment to international police cooperation and justice," Interpol Secretary General Ronald Noble said in the statement.

"Targeting and arresting those involved in embezzling funds and making them accountable for their actions before the courts will help Libya achieve its goal," he added.

France has requested Senussi's extradition after a Paris court sentenced him in absentia to life imprisonment for involvement in the downing of a French airliner in 1989.

### East German rights activist Gauck elected president



BERLIN (AFP) - Activist pastor Joachim Gauck was elected German president by an overwhelming majority Sunday, marking the first time a candidate from the former communist east will be head of state.

Gauck, 72, claimed 991 votes out of 1,232 from a special assembly of MPs and other dignitaries, parliamentary speaker Norbert Lammert said, against prominent Nazi hunter Beate Klarsfeld, 73, who was nominated as a protest candidate by the far-left party Die Linke.

"What a beautiful Sunday,"

Gauck said to enthusiastic applause from the chamber of the glass-domed Reichstag parliament building in central Berlin after the vote.

It was the third presidential election in three years for Germany after the abrupt resignations of Gauck's two predecessors.

Gauck helped drive the peaceful revolution that brought down communist East Germany and later fought to ensure that the public would be granted access to the vast stash of files left behind by the despised Stasi secret police after reunification in 1990. He oversaw the archive for the next decade.

Chancellor Angela Merkel, who also grew up under communism, gave her backing to the plain-spoken Lutheran pastor in February after President Christian Wulff stepped down amid a flurry of corruption allegations dating from his time as a state premier.

Wulff only served 20

months of his five-year term in office.

He had replaced Horst Koehler, a former head of the International Monetary Fund who bowed out after an uproar over comments he made appearing to justify using the military to serve Germany's economic interests.

Claudia Roth, co-leader of the opposition Greens party, which supported Gauck's candidacy along with the rest of Germany's mainstream parties, said the country was looking to Gauck to "give this badly damaged office dignity and respect again".

A poll for ARD public television released Saturday indicated that 80 percent of respondents consider him to be trustworthy.

The media and the public cheered his candidacy as an opportunity to remove some of the tarnish from the largely ceremonial office which serves as a kind of moral compass for the nation.

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## International News

### Republicans heap blame on Obama for Afghan crisis

WASHINGTON (AFP) - A crisis in Washington's relations with Afghan President Hamid Karzai sparked attacks Sunday on President Barack Obama, as Republican presidential candidates heaped blame on him for the troubles in the US exit strategy.

Former Massachusetts governor Mitt Romney and former Pennsylvania senator Rick Santorum assailed the president on separate television talks shows as creating an untenable situation by setting a hard-and-fast 2014 timetable for a US withdrawal.

"If the game plan is we're leaving irrespective of whether we're going to succeed or not, then why are we still there?" asked Santorum on ABC's "This Week." "Let's either commit to winning, or let's get out."

The attacks from the right came as the administration was struggling to contain the fallout from a massacre of 16 villagers, many of them

women and children, by a US soldier who allegedly went on a rampage March 11 in southern Afghanistan.

The White House said Obama and the Afghan leader reaffirmed their commitment to the 2014 withdrawal plan in a phone call Friday.

But Karzai's warning that he was "at the end of the rope" and public demands for an earlier pullback of US troops to their bases underscored the yawning divide between the allies at a time of sharply declining public support for the 10-year-old war in the United States.

Republicans seized on the issue to accuse Obama of failing to heed his commanders' demands for more troops, for withdrawing a surge force too soon and failing to demonstrate US commitment to a successful outcome.

"I think it is plain to see that the conditions there are not going very well," said Romney on Fox News Sunday.

"And I lay part of the blame for that on the lack of leadership on the part of our president, both in terms of his interactions with Karzai and with leaders there as well as his relative detachment from our military commanders there."

But neither he nor Santorum, who are vying to run against Obama in November, were clear about what they would do if they were in the president's place.

Advocates of an extended US presence in Afghanistan, meanwhile, argued that the decline in US public support for the war reflected a loss of confidence in the US strategy.

Senator John McCain, a staunch proponent of a large and continuing US military presence in Afghanistan, disputed the perception that the mission was failing, insisting that the relationship between US troops and Afghanistan "is wonderful."

### 'It's marvellous here': coach crash girl's final letter home

GENEVA (AFP) - A grieving father received his daughter's final, cheerful letter from a Swiss ski resort two days after she died with 21 other children in a coach crash, Swiss paper Blick reported.

Emma Molemans and her three best friends were killed in Tuesday night's coach crash in a Swiss tunnel that claimed 28 lives -- 22 children and six adults. Another 24 children were injured, some of them seriously.

"I'm still waiting and hoping that someone is going to phone me and say that it's a terrible mistake and that my little Emma is still alive," Johan Molemans told Blick from his home in the Belgian town of Lommel.

On Thursday morning, Emma's final letter arrived at their home, written from the Swiss resort where she and her friends were on a skiing holiday.

"Hello to all of you at home, I took the lift today, my ski instructor is super nice," she wrote.

"We also did some walking, afterwards we slid down the slope on a plastic bag, and in the evening we sang all the songs, it's really marvellous here."

Molemans' voice broke when he read out her final words, Blick reported: "I miss you so much."

It was a shock to receive the letter in the post, he said, but it was also good to know that Emma had lived some beautiful days just before her death, he told the paper.

He was staying at home with the family's two sons, 10 and 20 years old, while his wife went to Switzerland to bring home their daughter's body.

Emma died beside her three best friends who were seated up front, just behind the driver.

The four 11-year-olds had been inseparable, her father recalled.

"Emma grew up with her cousin Emily. They've always known each other, and the quartet formed at school when they met Eline and Emma," he said. "From that moment on, they did everything together."

Blick carried a photo of the smiling girls tucked up in sleeping bags, side by side.

They had shared the same bedroom during the holiday and it was his daughter's first time skiing, her father said.

The week-long Swiss skiing holiday for some school-children had been a local tradition for 40 years, he explained.

Emma's 10-year-old brother, meanwhile, was still trying to comfort him, said Molemans, telling him that his sister would surely wake up again.

### 12 Venezuelan police detained in killing consul daughter

CARACAS (AFP) - Twelve Venezuelan police officers have been detained for allegedly gunning down the daughter of a Chilean consul in the northwestern city of Maracaibo, the government announced.

Karen Berendique, 19, was killed early Saturday when she was riding in a pick-up truck driven by her 28-year-old brother Fernando, according to the Venezuelan prosecutor's office.

Jose Humberto Ramirez, national director of the Criminal and Scientific Investigative Corps, to which the detained officers belong, said the police

had opened fire when the driver failed to obey the command to stop.

"The driver did not respond to the voice command, and a chase ensued," Ramirez said, denying earlier reports that the vehicle had crossed a cordoned-off police investigative zone.

The pursuers, who were investigating car theft in the area, allegedly opened fire, and three of the bullets hit Karen Berendique, the official said.

Ramirez expressed regret about what he called "the bad practice" among the agents of reaching for the gun in situations where use of force could

be avoided.

In a statement, the Venezuelan Foreign Ministry condemned the use of force and demanded "clarification of the facts in the shortest possible term."

Chilean Consul Fernando Berendique said the incident was a "hard blow" for him.

"I would like to use this opportunity to ask the Venezuelan government to pay more attention to public safety," the diplomat said.

According to unofficial statistics, last year was one of the bloodiest in Venezuela, with about 19,000 murders reported across the country.

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## National Day celebration events . . .



**Prime Minister Eman and Governor Refunjol**



**Visiting dignitaries**



**Choral group**



**Doina Eman and Clarette Refunjol**



**Aruban and visiting dignitaries**



**Young Emans and their great grandfather**

Charlotte Wolff-Croes, as President of the 18th of March Monument Foundation officially welcomed all and invited the Prime Minister to the podium to make his traditional annual address.

Prime Minister Eman thanked all those attending, the various visiting dignitaries and Aruba's Governor Fredis Refunjol, offering congratulations on the day of national pride for all Arubans. He commented on the obstacles island leaders had overcome to insure and autonomously ruled, prosperous Aruba, felt it offered proof that islanders have the resilience to recover from various setbacks, such as the impending closure of the refinery in San Nicolas.

It has happened before, in 1986, and Aruban statesmen redirected the economic pillar of the island to tourism. Anticipating the ever present possibility of the absence of refinery as a source of jobs and income, the present administration has also been taking steps to develop alternate industries for Aruba, such as green technology, and with tourism again on the rise, the PM felt confident that Aruban ingenuity and determination will again see the nation through any difficulties.

He also extended heartfelt thanks to Juan Chabaya (Padu) Lampe, who was present at the memorial service, for co composing the lovely song, "Aruba





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## National Day celebration events . . .



Dushi Tera," which was officially named the island's beloved national anthem in 1976.

Joyous celebration continued at the Plaza Betico Croes, where island foundations raised funds by selling native food and refreshments, alongside enterprising chefs and artists offering a wide selection of snacks and handicrafts. The festive street fair was backdrop for the annual cultural show of patriotic song and dance; this year, a full year of celebration honoring 25 years of Status Aparte ended with a memorable laser light show.

by Rosalie Klein





## COMICS



## CROSSWORD



## CROSSWORD

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## ACROSS

1. High pair
5. Pauper's request
9. Ten-percenter (abbr.)
12. 16 ounces
13. Give the impression
14. Third mo.
15. U.S. national flower
16. Punish
18. Gore and Biden, e.g. (abbr.)
20. Playground item
21. Alternate
24. Cobblers' tools
25. "Which guy?"
26. Alternative word
28. Drama club output
32. Currently
33. Pie nut
35. \_\_\_ fix (2 wds.)
36. "Star Trek" helmsman
38. Pretty angry
39. Atlas chart
40. Speedy
42. Incites
44. Investigate thoroughly
46. Anger
47. Serfs
49. Cracked, as a door
53. Evita's country (abbr.)

54. Actress Polo
55. Producer's dream review
56. Motel units (abbr.)
57. Rewrite
58. Quits, as a battery

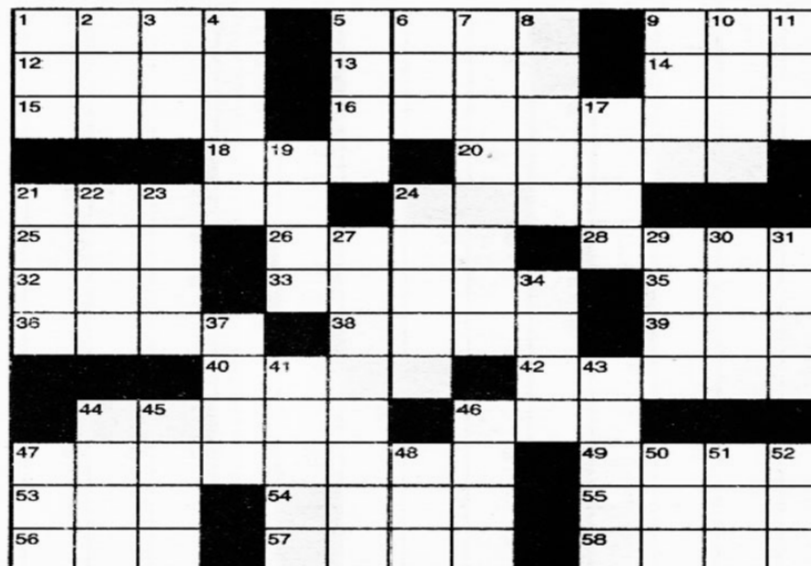
## DOWN

1. Calendar abbr.
2. AFL-\_\_\_
3. Naval rank (abbr.)
4. Singer Lawrence
5. Vipers
6. Grant's

7. Department that includes ties
8. Wee
9. Among
10. Fixed stare
11. Three (Ital.)
17. Speech problem
19. Kind of cook
21. Possesses
22. Biblical "you"
23. Yelp
24. Dandy's neckwear
27. Reduced
29. Common drink garnish
30. Med. sch.

## course

31. Blabs
34. Adjacent
37. Aliens' crafts
41. Ebb
43. Santa's feature
44. Curl maker, for short
45. Waste cloths
46. "Or \_\_\_ at long last love?" (2 wds.)
47. Standard
48. Angle starter
50. \_\_\_ alai
51. Fifth or Madison (abbr.)
52. Dweller (abbr.)



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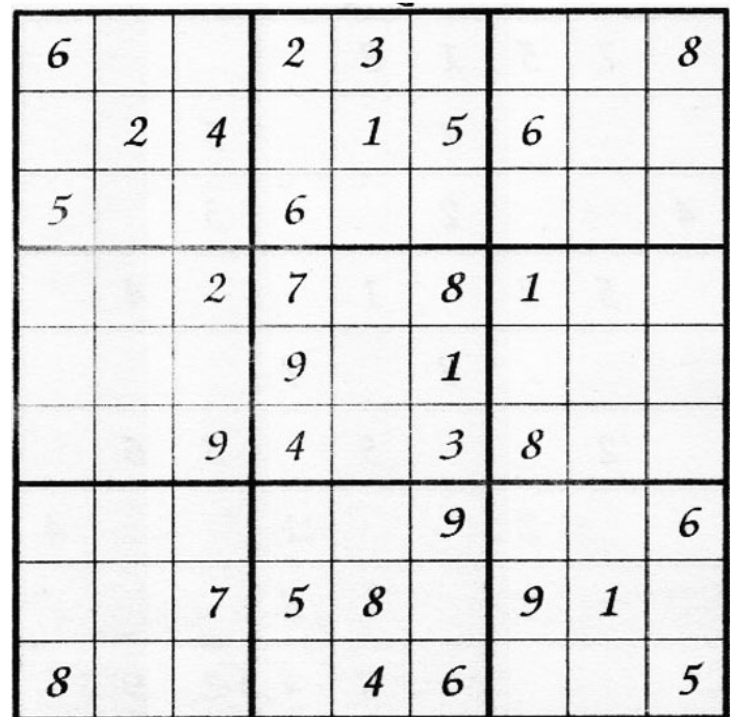
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# Sudoku



SOLUTION

5	2	1	9	4	3	6	8	7
8	1	6	2	8	5	7	9	4
9	8	4	6	1	5	2	3	7
2	1	8	5	9	4	6	3	7
4	5	3	1	2	6	9	8	7
6	9	1	8	5	2	7	4	3
1	4	2	1	6	9	8	5	3
7	3	9	5	1	8	4	2	6
8	6	5	4	3	7	1	2	9

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9  
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.  
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9



## Finance

# IMF chief cautiously upbeat on global economy

Beijing (AFP) - IMF chief Christine Lagarde said Sunday measures taken to fight financial woes in Europe and the US were starting to pay off, in a cautiously upbeat assessment of the global economy.

But Lagarde -- in Beijing for a two-day trip to attend a high profile forum on China's development and hold meetings with her economic counterparts -- also warned that "major" vulnerabilities still remained.

"Even just a few months ago, the situation was decidedly gloomy. Indicators for the last quarter of 2011 -- namely for Europe and the United States -- did not provide much reassurance," Lagarde said in a speech at the forum.

Europe -- China's top export market -- has been hit by a severe debt crisis that has seen a wave of credit-rating downgrades and brought Greece to the brink of bankruptcy, sparking concern across the world.

But Lagarde said some of the policy actions taken -- particularly by the European Central Bank and some European countries -- had helped stabilise the overall situation.

Most EU nations agreed in January to a treaty that will require governments to introduce laws on balanced budgets and impose near-automatic sanctions on countries that violate deficit rules.

And the looming threat of a Greek default has receded after most of the country's private creditors agreed to a bond swap that will see them accept huge losses and wipe some 100 billion euros (\$132 billion) off Athens' debt.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) also approved a new 28-billion-euro loan for Greece on Thursday, as part of the European Union's bailout plan for the debt-riddled country.

## FRIDAY'S Crossword Answer

A	D	A	M	V	A	S	T	B	L	T
T	A	R	O	I	L	S	A	R	A	H
O	M	E	N	C	O	A	L	A	M	I
A	T	B	A	T	K	A	T	E	S	
A	R	C	H	E	R	F	I	T		
G	O	O	S	E	C	R	E	E	D	S
O	L	D		C	O		E	K	E	
L	E	D	G	E	S	A	L	L	I	N
E	E	L		A	F	L	A	M	E	
R	A	B	B	I	E	L	B	O	W	
A	R	I		S	H	A	D		Y	A
T	N	T		H	A	V	E		D	R
E	E	E		A	M	E	N		S	E

In the United States, meanwhile, the economy has shown signs of improvement with better consumer and business spending and an improved job market, even if there is still high unemployment and a depressed housing sector.

But Lagarde warned there were still major vulnerabilities, with public and private debt still high in many advanced economies, oil prices rising, and the risk of slowing activity in emerging nations.

"The recovery will be a marathon, and not a sprint," she said.

Lagarde praised China for its "leadership and adept policy skills" in the global financial crisis, but said it should continue to move away from its dependency on exports and investment, and focus more on domestic consumption.

Speaking after Lagarde, Vice Premier Li Keqiang -- who is widely touted to replace current Premier Wen Jiabao next year -- also emphasised the need to rebalance Chinese growth towards domestic demand.

Angel Gurría, OECD secretary general, concurred, saying more social expenditure in China would be good for growth.

If people feel "they're having health, education, infrastructure, they're having housing facilities available... there will be a higher propensity to spend and less to save," he said.

## British budget to tackle property tax avoidance

LONDON (AFP) - Britain's finance minister George Osborne said he would launch an aggressive campaign on property tax avoidance in his annual budget on Wednesday.

The chancellor of the exchequer said Sunday that he would clamp down on people selling property through offshore companies to avoid paying a tax on property purchases, known as stamp duty.

"What you will see on Wednesday is a budget for working people, a budget that shows Britain can earn its way in the world, a budget that says Britain is not content with being in the second rank of economic powers," Osborne told BBC television.

Senior government ministers agreed most of the major



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## India, Africa aim for \$90 billion trade in 3 years

NEW DELHI (AFP) - Indian and African leaders on Sunday agreed to sharply increase bilateral trade to \$90 billion by 2015 as the two sides discussed potential deals.

The South Asian country is aiming to boost its trade and diplomatic ties with Africa where China has already made

major inroads by striking multiple deals, building infrastructure projects and offering soft loans.

The goal of achieving \$90 billion in trade between India and China in three years "is a significant improvement, considering the fact that a decade ago the trade was \$3 billion", Indian Commerce Secretary Anand Sharma said.

Sharma was speaking at the first day of a three-day India-Africa meeting in New Delhi where organisers said more than 250 projects worth close to \$30 billion were being discussed.

Over 600 African delegates are participating in the India-Africa Forum Summit, organisers said, while over 500 Indian business delegates would also attend the meeting.

India has been turning to the one-billion-strong African continent as it looks to diversify its energy sources and reduce its dependency on the Middle East which supplies two-thirds of its energy imports.

Africa, despite being home to most of the world's poorest countries, is richly endowed with oil, minerals and other natural resources.

Last year, the two sides had set a target of \$70 billion trade to be achieved by 2015. Bilateral trade totalled \$62 billion in 2011.

At the meeting, the ministers launched the India-Africa Business Council to be co-chaired by Indian telecom czar Sunil Bharti Mittal, head of Bharti Group, and Dangote Group president Alhaji Aliko, known as Africa's "cement king".

The council will propose ways to increase economic and commercial ties between India and Africa.

While China prefers government-to-government deals, Indian investment has been mainly in the private sector, notably in telecom, pharma-

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## Paseo Herencia unveils tribute to Padu Lampe for Aruba's National Day



Minister Dowers with GM Valerie, Padu and Marketing Manager Candy posing in front the new exhibited bust of Padu and the beautifully framed prints of the anthem's lyrics.



Minister Dowers and Padu enjoy a toast



Grupo di Betico entertaining the public



tourists enjoy the evening very well

Paseo Herencia in Palm Beach is not only a shopping, dining and entertainment center, but a source of fascinating information about Aruba's history and culture. On Friday, March 16, they celebrated the newest ad-

dition to their halls of history, homage to Juan Chabaya (Padu) Lampe, co-composer of Aruba's national anthem, "Aruba Dushi Terra." March 18, 1976 was when Aruba's official flag and anthem were

first introduced to the public.

The new exhibit is comprised of a bust of Padu, along with beautifully framed prints of the anthem's lyrics, in Papiamentu side by side with an English interpretation, so island visitors can truly appreciate its sentiments.

Ruben Garcia was MC for the unveiling, with Minister of Justice and Education, Arthur Dowers, dedicating the new memorial, and Padu was present for this poignant moment, with his daughter Vivien.

Padu expressed his pleasure in sharing the anthem with island visitors, a song he had originally written and recorded in 1951 with a now-deceased giant of Aruba's musical culture, Rufo Wever. It had become very popular with islanders, so when a committee was assigned the task of choosing a national anthem, the pleasing melody and touching lyrics made it a natural selection.

"We are thrilled to place this lovely new exhibit in our Hall of History," expressed Paseo Herencia GM Valerie Pietersz-Camacho and Marketing Manager Candy Rasmiñ-Reino, "we feel it is the most perfect way to celebrate Aruba's National Day, March 18. We are already noticing great interest in it from the visitors to Paseo Herencia." Padu garnered enthusiastic applause, as he sang his composition, and despite his frailty at 92 years old, belted out the final refrain with fervor.

One of Aruba's great statesmen, Gilberto (Betico) Francois Croes, who died in 1986, was instrumental in the movement for a national flag and anthem, and it was the group he revitalized, Grupo di Betico, comprised of his brothers, cousins and nephews, who entertained that night in the Plaza Padu of Paseo Herencia. A musical group passed down through the generations, they always entertained at family gatherings, but in recent years have become quite popular at public functions and have issued some very successful CD's of their original music.

It was a rousing, patriotic evening for all, thoroughly enjoyed by vacationers and islanders alike, and a most proper tribute to Aruba's National Day, also known as Himno Y Bandera, or Flag and Anthem Day.

by Rosalie Klein



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## Jagger-Richards spat: It's all over now

NEW YORK (AFP) - We all need someone to lean on, and the founding duo of the Rolling Stones say they're doing just that after overcoming three decades of misunderstandings with a year of some heavy conversation.

In an interview with Rolling Stone, Mick Jagger and Keith Richards said they rebuilt their friendship after guitarist Richards's best-selling 2011 memoirs "Life" laid bare his pent-up frustration with the snake-hipped frontman.

"In the 1980s, for instance, Keith and I were not communicating very well," Jagger told the pop culture magazine, which celebrates the

band's 50th anniversary in its current issue.

"I got very involved with the business side of the Stones, mainly because I felt no one else was interested -- but it's plain now from the book ("Life") that Keith felt excluded, which is a pity. Time I reckon to move on."

"Mick's right," said Richards, the other half of the so-called Glimmer Twins. The pair co-founded the Stones in 1962 after they met in a London train station and discovered their mutual love for American blues music.

Rolling Stone reported earlier this week that the Stones are planning no concert tour for its 50th anniversary.



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## Parents Guide to Skin Protection



It's important to protect your children's skin from the damaging effects of the sun. No matter what they're doing or what time of year it is, if they are outdoors, they need to be protected.

Aruba is one of the places in the world where the sun is the strongest. Located only 12.5 degrees north of the equator, the sun shines with maximum strength and penetrates the atmosphere with a maximum amount of UV rays. What most people don't know on water and sand, which means that even in the shade you need protection.

Protecting the skin from the sun during childhood and adolescence is important in reducing cancer risks later in life. By building safe sun habits into your family's daily routine, you will make your children understand and get used to being protected against the sun and they will become more



aware of the harmful effects it can have to their skin. Parents should take the lead by giving the good example; children will respond better when they see their parents protecting their skin as well.

### Important recommendations:

- Wear protective clothing when out in the sun. Choose shirts and slacks made of tightly woven fabrics that you

can't see through when held up to light.

- Cover up with Hats. Choose hats that shade your child's face, neck and ears.

- Apply Sunscreen every day on skin that is not protected by clothing or a hat. Choose a sunscreen with a high Sun Protection Factor (SPF) such as Aruba Aloe's Waterproof SPF 30 sunscreen for maximum protection. For babies and children under 2 years old, make sure to use a special sunscreen that gives extra protection for the sensitive skin such as "Waterproof Babies SPF 30" from Aruba Aloe. Remember to reapply after swimming, sweating or toweling dry if you use a sunscreen that is not waterproof.

- Use sunscreen even on



hazy or overcast days.

- Keep an extra bottle of sunscreen in the car.

- Pack a bottle of sunscreen in your child's bag.

- Use Sunglasses that block UV rays and protect the eyes and the surrounding tender skin.

- Play in the Shade. The sun's rays are generally strongest from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. If your children are outdoors, make sure their skin is protected.

- Teach your children the shadow rule. When outside, if your shadow is shorter than you are, it means that the sun is high in the sky and the UV rays are most intense.

- Protect children younger than 6 months of age with clothing and keep them in the shade.

For more advice on how to best protect your and your children's skin against the sun, please call Aruba Aloe: 588-3222 or visit the website [www.ArubaAloe.com](http://www.ArubaAloe.com)

Aruba Aloe products are available at most hotels, supermarkets, pharmacies and the Aruba Aloe Stores.

## Gold Coast Aruba: Great savings for large families on holiday rentals



Aruba's newest and most innovative gated community has enjoyed steady sales since breaking ground, as many are finding the secure surroundings and outstanding amenities are just what they were looking for before considering purchasing property on the island. Some owners are using the villas or town homes as vacation retreats rather than full time and are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their "home away from home" in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," noted Gold Coast developer Fito Croes. To assist in the demand for more complete facilities for groups and families, famed hotelier Ed Malone has been placed in charge of the rental program.

Staying at Gold Coast is a very attractive proposition for those traveling with groups that would require multiple hotel rooms. Two and three bedroom Villas or Town Homes accommodate large numbers and offer extensive amenities along with a final cost resulting in considerable savings. The community is minutes to the best beaches and all the casino action, and offers a quiet and secluded getaway with two swimming pools and specialized services with more on the way, such as a fitness room, tennis courts and mini-mall. Ed can arrange maid service, babysitters, caterers, airline pick-up

and drop-off; they even boast a shopping service to stock your shelves before arrival.

Gold Coast accommodations are elegant and spacious, offering privacy for parents or a few couples.

high-speed fiber-optic Internet connection, individual washer/dryer, and are fully air-conditioned. Cribs, high chairs and hair dryers are available for a modest fee. Concierge services to arrange



Beautifully appointed kitchens and bathrooms grace each abode; barbecues and lounges are provided for friendly cookouts and truly savoring the island life. All homes come with cable TV,

rental cars, spa appointments, activities and restaurant reservations are all part of the package.

Check-in for your holiday escape is conducted in the comfort of your vacation home, not while waiting on line at check-in desk. In every way, Gold Coast seeks to pamper their guests while providing them with the feeling of being in a cozy community, not the normally bustling resort, particularly experienced during the major holidays. If you wish an optimal vacation experience with great savings, visit their website: [www.goldcoastaruba.com](http://www.goldcoastaruba.com) to get acquainted with the community and the layout, details and availability of accommodations, or call 586-2200 to talk personally to a Gold Coast representative.





## SPORTS

**Formula One: Button wins thrilling season opener**

McLaren-Mercedes driver Jensen Button of Britain speeds to victory in Formula One's Australian Grand Prix in Melbourne.



MELBOURNE (AFP) - McLaren's Jensen Button won the Australian Grand Prix in a thrilling start to the season Sunday as he held off two-time defending champion Se-

bastian Vettel in second place.

The 32-year-old Englishman started second on the grid but took advantage of a slow getaway by his pole-sitting team-mate Lewis Hamilton to take the lead at the first corner, and then controlled the race all the way to the flag.

Hamilton, struggling for the pace he exhibited as he flew to pole on Saturday, finished third behind Red Bull's defending double world champion Sebastian Vettel, who climbed from sixth on the grid.

Vettel's recovery -- aided by a timely safety car intervention -- shows that he and his team are not to be taken lightly, and will be locked into what looks like a close championship battle with McLaren.

"That was beautiful, just a perfect start and it shows how good a winter can be," said Button. "A great start to the year for me and the team."

It was the 2009 world champion's third win in four years at the Australian Grand Prix, and the 13th of his career.

Local hero Australian Mark Webber came home fourth to deliver his best finish at his home race in the second Red Bull.

Two-time champion Fernando Alonso of Ferrari was fifth after a forceful race from 12th on the grid, following a disappointing qualifying performance on Saturday, ahead of Japanese Kamui Kobayashi of Sauber.

The 2007 champion Finn Kimi Raikkonen, who started 18th on the grid, came home seventh for Lotus in his first race after a two-year absence in rallying, and Mexican Sergio Perez was eighth for Sauber.

Australia's second entrant Daniel Ricciardo finished in

the points on his debut with the Toro Rosso team by taking ninth position in a dramatic finish ahead of Briton Paul Di Resta, 10th for the Force India team.

Seven-time champion Michael Schumacher of Germany was an early retirement in his Mercedes.

Vettel said he believed he had a good chance to attack the McLarens in the race and would have pushed to pass Hamilton even without the help of a safety car, after 38 laps when Russian Vitaly Petrov pulled up and parked his Caterham on the straight.

Vettel said: "I decided to stay out when Lewis went into the pits and I think we would have had a crack without the safety car. Maybe it helped us a little bit to get past Lewis."

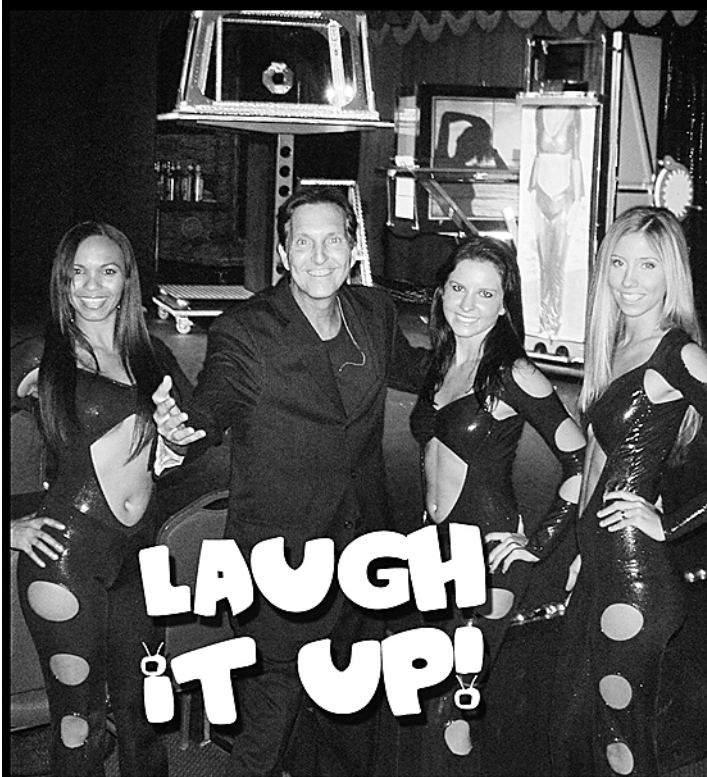
A dejected Hamilton said: "Firstly congratulations to Jensen -- he did a great job. And to the team for doing great job. It was a bit of a tough day for me, but we've got a lot of races ahead of us."

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**Tennis: Azarenka wins Indian Wells title**

California (AFP) - World No. 1 Victoria Azarenka routed World No. 2 Maria Sharapova 6-2, 6-3 to win the ATP/WTA Indian Wells women's title on Sunday. Azarenka has won all 23 matches she has played this year, the best start to a season since Martina Hingis won 37 in a row in 1997. Azarenka's victory comes just six weeks after she beat Sharapova in straight sets in the Australian Open final to win her first Grand Slam title. The 22-year-old from Belarus hit one ace, had two double faults and won 71 percent of her first serve points in collecting her fourth title of 2012 and a \$1 million winner's check.





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## NBA: Lin and Knicks click in 102-88 win over Pacers

INDIANAPOLIS (AFP) - Jeremy Lin led the Knicks with 19 points Saturday as New York beat the Indiana Pacers 102-88 to improve to 3-0 since interim coach Mike Woodson took the helm of the NBA team.

Lin, who emerged as an NBA sensation under former Knicks coach Mike D'Antoni last month, added seven rebounds and six assists as he proved he can continue to thrive under the Woodson regime.

Carmelo Anthony and Amare Stoudemire scored 16 points apiece and J.R. Smith chipped in with 11 for the Knicks, who notched just their eighth road victory of the lockout-shortened season.

The victory followed their 115-100 triumph over the Pacers at Madison Square

Garden on Friday night.

Since Woodson took over following D'Antoni's abrupt departure this week, the Knicks have won three games by an average of 23.7 points.

While much had been made of how Woodson might change the Knicks' offensive system -- and how point guard Lin would fit in -- an increased focus on defence has been the most noticeable change.

After a high-scoring first quarter, the Knicks gave up just 53 points over the final three periods.

Roy Hibbert scored 24 points with 12 rebounds and Paul George added 18 for the Pacers, who made only 4 of 15 shots from the floor in the final period.

For Woodson, it was a victorious homecoming to a city where he was once a high school star.

After the Knicks' big win on Friday, however, he knew Pacers fans wouldn't be welcoming.



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## Football: French women's match called off over headscarves

NARBONNE (AFP) - A referee on Sunday refused to officiate a French women's football match, when players for one of the teams took the pitch wearing Muslim headscarves, the club involved said.

The official sent a report to the Languedoc-Roussillon league in the south of the country about the incident involving players from Petit-Bard Montpellier, who had

been due to play Narbonne in the regional promotion tie.

The league must now decide whether to order the match to be replayed or to award a win to Narbonne.

The two teams played a friendly match instead, with Narbonne winning 7-6.

Football's world governing body FIFA banned players from wearing the Islamic headscarf in 2007, claiming it is unsafe.

But football federations and even the United Nations have urged FIFA to lift the ban, maintaining that concerns about safety are baseless and that it discriminates against Muslim players, particularly when no such restrictions apply in other sports.

Iran's women's team last year forfeited a 2012 Olympic qualifier because players wouldn't play without wearing hijabs.

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## **Tennis: Federer beats Isner for Indian Wells title**



Federer celebrating his Indian Wells win

INDIAN WELLS – Roger Federer beat American John Isner 7-6 6-3 on Sunday to become the first player to win the Indian Wells ATP tournament four times.

The Swiss world number three blunted the powerful serving of Isner with a controlled display, edging the American 9-7 in the first set tiebreak then breaking him twice in the second set to triumph in one hour and 21 minutes.

Federer clinched the title when the towering Isner, who upset world number one Serb Novak Djokovic in the semi-finals, dumped a forehand into the net.

The Swiss, who had won three consecutive titles at Indian Wells from 2004-06, raised both arms skywards in celebration as the capacity crowd erupted in applause.

The success marked his third trophy on the trot after Rotterdam and Dubai.

The victory in 86 minutes marked the 18th Masters 1000 title for the Swiss 30-year-old, who was playing in his 103rd final with 73 titles.

Federer and Azarenka each earned \$1 million, the richest winner's checks in the tournament's history.

Federer improved to 39-2 since last year's U.S. Open, with his only losses to No. 2 Rafael Nadal in the semifinals of the Australian Open and the 11th-ranked Isner, who won on the Swiss star's home turf. Federer avenged both those defeats in consecutive days, putting away Nadal in the rain-delayed semifinals Saturday and then Isner.



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